

DOCKING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year 1939.



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STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:

L. G. Anderson, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H., (Serving with The Royal Air Force since September 1st, 1939).

Temporary Medical Officer of Health:
IRENE B. M. GREEN, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.
(Appointed October, 1939).

Sanitary Inspector and Sanitary Surveyor:
W. B. Jenkins, C.R.S.I., C.S.I.B.

COUNCIL OFFICES, STATION ROAD.

DOCKING, NORFOLK.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for 1939.

The Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Anderson was called up for service with the Royal Air Force at the outbreak of War and 1 took up my appointment in October. Thus most of the statistics which follow were compiled by my absent colleague.

The birth rate per 1,000 population was 15.1 as compared with 15 for England and Wales.

The standardised death rate was 9.48 which is very low and compares very favourably with 12.1 for England and Wales.

The infant mortality rate, or the death rate of infants under one year per 1,000 live births was 50.1, that for the whole Country being 50.

There have been 37 cases of notifiable infectious disease during the year with no deaths. Twenty of these were Scarlet Fever although there seems to have been nothing in the nature of an epidemic. At the beginning of 1939, Dr. Anderson inaugurated his diphtheria immunisation scheme and these are his figures for the amount of work done up to the end of the year:—

School.	7.	No. im	munised		School.		No. imn	nunised.
Ringstead			43	S	Snettisham			130
			140	5	South Creak	:е		70
Stanhoe			40	I	Brancaster			70
Syderstone		•••	83					
East Rndhai	n		110				Total	686
Number	of Sc	chools	in Area	•••			27	
Number	of Sc	chools	immunis	sed in	1939		8	
Approxi	mate	numbe	r of Ch	ildren	of School	age	2,100	
Number	immu	inised	in 1939		•••	••••	686	

Dr. Anderson considered that this represented an acceptance figure of 84%. It will be seen that about one third of the School population had been immunised up to the end of 1939.

There were 14 new cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year and 4 deaths from this cause.

Soon after the outbreak of War there was a considerable increase of population due to the Government Evacuation Scheme. 1,030 mothers with children and 800 unaccompanied children were sent from London and were housed for the most part in private billets. Many of them soon returned to their homes and at the end of the year there remained only 115 mothers and children and 544 unaccompanied school children.

The outbreaks of infectious disease, which were expected to follow such a wholesale movement of population, happily, did not materialise. Except for some isolated cases of contagious disease, such as Impetigo and Scabies which were soon under control, it cannot be said that evacuation had any deleterious effect upon the public health of the district.

In conclusion, I should like to acknowledge the help and encouragement I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee and the loyal co-operation of the Staff.

I have the honour to be
Your obedient servant,
IRENE B. M. GREEN,
Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1939.

Area (in acres)	• •	••	•••	•••	•••	87,386
Resident Populati		•	.939 (a	s estimated		
Registrar-Ger	neral) .	••			•••	16,710
Number of inhabi	ited hou	ises (ei	nd of 1	939)		5,900
Rateable Value (end of	1939)	=	•••	£	53,357
Sum represented	by a P	enny B	late	•••	•••	£226
	VI.	TAL S	STATIST	TICS.		
Live Births.	Total.	Males.	. Femal	es.		
Legitimate	245	114	131)	Birth Rate	e per 1,000	0
llegitimate	12		4 }	of estimat	ed residen	t
Total	257	122	135)	population		. 15.1
Still Births.						
Legitimate	8	4	4)			
Illegitimate		$\frac{4}{4}$	$\left\{\begin{array}{c}4\\-4\end{array}\right\}$	Rate per	1,000 Birth	s 30.19
Total	8	4	4)			
Deaths	214	110	104		th Rate pe	
				1,000 of the		
				resident po	•	12.81
				Standardis		
				Rate (Cor Factor 0.7		
				Lactor U.I	-,	. 0.10
Deaths from puer	peral c	auses				nil
puo.	Pormi o			•••	•••	
Infant Mortalit	vi.e.	deaths	s of in	fants unde	er one	

year of age :--

		Total.	Males.	Females.
Legitimate	•••	13	7	6
Illegitimate				
Totals	• • •	13	7	6

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births 50.7

It is interesting to note that all but one of the infant deaths occurred in the first week of life and were chiefly due to conditions of prematurity and under-development.

The causes of death given in this table are supplied by the Registrar-General:—

	CAUSES OF DEATH.			MALES.	FEMALES.
	All Causes		•••	110	104
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid				_
2	Measles			_	
3.	Scarlet Fever			_	
4	Whooping Cough	•••	•••	_	_
5	Diphtheria		•••		
6	Influenza	•••	•••		2
7	Encephalitis Lethargica	•••			-
- 8	Cerebro-spinal Fever	•••			
9	Tuberculosis of Respiratory Syst	em	•••	2	2
10	Other Tuberculous Diseases				
11	Syphilis	•••		<u> </u>	
12	General Paralysis of the Insane	•••	•••	1 -	
13	Cancer	•••	· · · ·	18	15
14	Diabetes	•••			4
15	Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc	• • •	•••	1	6
16	Heart Disease		•••	31	38
17	Aneurysm	•••	•••		
18	Other Circulatory Diseases	•••	•••	9	4
19	Bronchitis	•••	•••	4	1
20	Pneumonia (all forms)		•••	4	7
21	Other Respiratory Diseases	•••	•••	1	1
22	Peptic Ulcer	• • • •	•••	1	-
23	Diarrhœa, etc. (under two years)		•••	1	1
24	Appendicitis	•••		_	
25	Cirrhosis of the Liver	•••	•••	1	
26	Other Diseases of the Liver	•••	•••		
27	Other Digestive Diseases		•••	$\frac{2}{2}$	1
28	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	•••	•••	3	3
29	Puerperal Sepsis	•••		-	
30	Other Puerperal Diseases		•••		
31	Congenital Debility, Prematurity	, etc.	•••	6	4
32	Senility	•••	•••	. 3	5
33	Suicide	•••		10	4
34	Other Violence	•••	•••	10	4
35	Other Defined Diseases	••		12	5
36	Causes Ill-defined or Unknown	•••	•••	1	1

The main causes of death were Heart Disease and Cancer. There have been no deaths from Notifiable Infectious Disease during the year. Two thirds of the deaths occurred at the age of 65 and over.

TUBERCULOSIS.

			NEW (Cases.		DEATHS.				
I	Age	Puln	nonary		on- nonary	Puln	nonary	Non- Pulmonary		
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
	0— 1— 5— 15— 25— 35— 45— 55— 65 upwards			1 3 - - -		1 1 1	1 1			
	TOTALS	5	5	4		2	2	_		

The number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year was:—

Type of Case	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary Non-Pulmonary	41 32	33 21	7 4 53
Totals	73	54	127

There were only 4 deaths from Tuberculosis during the year. There were 127 cases on the Register at the end of 1939, an increase of 2 on those at the end of 1938.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis).

The incidence of notifiable disease during the year is shown in the two subjoined tables; the first table sets out the total notifications, whilst the second shows the distribution according to age.

Disease.	Total Cases.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Smallpox Scarlet Fever			_
Diphtheria	3	$ar{2}$	_
Puerperal Pyrexia	5		_
Pneumonia Cerebro-spinal Fever		_	_
Erysipelas Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1		
Acute Poliomyelitis		_	_
Totals	37	4	_

Disease.	Under One Year	1	2—	3	4	5—	10-	15	20	35—	45	65—	Total Cases
Smallpox Scarlet Fever Diphtheria Enteric Fever	- - -		_	_ _ 1 _					3	$\frac{1}{1}$			20 3 1
Puerperal Pyrexia Pneumonia Cerebro-spinal		=	(-)	_	_	_	=	_	_	4 3	1	4	5 7
Fever Erysipelas Ophthalmia	_			_	=	-	_		=	=			
Neonatorum Acute Poliomyelitis	1			_		_	_	_		_	_	_	1 -
	1	1	-	1	3	2	5	5	3	9	3	4	37

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1939.

1.	Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:—	
	(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	106
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	129
	 (2) (a) Number of houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 	53 64
	(3) Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habition	19
	(4) Number of houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	14
2.	Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices:—	
	Number of defective houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	26
3.	Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:	
	(a)—Proceedings under sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
	(1) Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	3
	(2) Number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:— (a) By owners	3
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
	(b)-Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
	(1) Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied (2) Number of houses in which defects were re-	6
	medied after service of formal notices: (a) By Owners (b) By Local Authority in default of owners	6 Nil
	(c)—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
	(1) Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders made	24
	(2) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	15
	(d)-Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
	(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders	N:1
	were made	Nil

	(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Clesing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit Nil
4.	Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding:—
	(a)—(i) Number of houses overcrowded at end of year (ii) Number of families dwelling therein
	(b)—Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year 2
	(e)—(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year
	(d)—Particulars of any cases in which houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding Nil
	(e)—Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health considers it desirable to report.
	CARCAGO MORESTER AND CONTRACTOR

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle, exclud- ing Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)	Number	not ac	curately	known	
Number inspected	567 includ	ing cows	& calves	1193	1409
All diseases except Tuberculosis Whole carcases condemned			1	6	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	62			30	29
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber-culosis	10.7		_	2.5	2.05
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcases condemned	1				
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	54				**********
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	9.5	_		_	6.3

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Details of Inspections carried out by the Sanitary Inspector.

I.-INSPECTIONS.

Premises.	Inspections.	Written Notice.	Prose- cutions.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
FACTORIES	14	1	
Workshops	10	2	- 1
Total	24	3	_

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

	Num	D		
Particulars	Found	Reme- died	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Prose- cutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Want of Cleanliness	1	1	- 1	-
Sanitary Accommodation Unsuitable or defective, etc	2	2		
Total	3	3	_	

ANNUAL REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentleman,

I respectfully wish to submit for your consideration my first Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1939.

INSPECTIONS: The number of inspections made in connection with the various branches of Public Health work is as follows:—

/ \ TT .		100
(a) Housing	•••	129
(b) Slaughterhouses and butcher shops for the	e pur-	
pose of meat inspection		733
(c) Inspections under the Public Health Acts	•••	134
(d) Cowsheds and Dairies		74
(e) Sites licensed for Movable Dwellings		21
(f) Factories Acts inspections		24

NOTICES: The following preliminary notices were served requiring work to be carried out under the various Acts and Orders:—

(1)	Housing Acts			21
(2)	Public Health Acts		• • • •	18
(3)	Meat Regulations 1924			5
(4)	Milk and Dairies Acts			11
(5)	Slaughter of Animals Act			3
(6)	Factories Act	•••		3

- Statutory Notices: One was served under the Housing Act. All notices were complied with, and no legal proceedings were taken during the year.

HOUSING: Number of houses in District 5,900 (approx.)
Number of Council Houses in District 512.
New houses built during year (a) Council houses 72.
(b) by private enterprise 35.

The majority of houses in the District are occupied by members of the working class, and inspections are constantly being carried out to ascertain what houses are unfit or overcrowded, etc., and particulars of these are given in the Medical Officer's Report.

HOUSING (Rural Workers) Act.

Number of applications for assistance received	3 .		
Number of applications for assistance approved	3		
Number of applications for assistance refused	0		
Number of houses reconditioned	4; and	6 0	ther
houses were provided with a water supply;			
	£276		
Schemes still in progress	1		

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION:

(a) Slaughterhouses: There are 24 licensed slaughterhouses in the district and 24 butcher shops. Two slaughterhouses and shops were closed during the year, the occupiers having given up business. The

occupier of another slaughterhouse did not apply for a licence and his premises are not now used in connection with slaughtering. One slaughterhouse was reopenel and one new one brought into use. Sixty-two licensed slaughtermen are engaged in the butchery business.

(b) Meat Inspection: Some details regarding meat inspection are given in statistical form in the Medical Officer's report. The following particulars might also be of interest:—

Actual meat found to be diseased:—Beasts: Heads 57; livers 34; lungs and hearts 33; 1 carcase; 6 forequarters; 1 calf carcase. Pigs: Heads 64; mesenteries 53; livers 14. Sheep: 6 carcases; 6 livers; 1 forequarter.

Briefly, the chief causes of condemnation were, in beef, tuberculosis actinomycosis, supperative conditions. etc.; in pork, tuberculosis; in mutton, inflammatory conditions, etc.

From the above, it must not be assumed that the quality of meat sold in the district is generally inferior. On the contrary, the quality is good and fairly uniform, but often diseased conditions will manifest themselves in carcases of animals, which prior to slaughter, were seemingly quite sound; and the only way to prevent the fiesh of diseased animals being consumed by the public is by regular and constant supervision.

Numerous contraventions of the various Acts, Orders and Regulations governing the sale and production of food were discovered, but up to the present they have been remedied by taking informal action only.

(c) Foods and Drugs Act, 1938. This Act which amends and consolidates previous legislation with regard to foods, came into operation on the 1st October, 1939.

Three slaughterhouses were found to have unsatisfactory water supplies, and before they could be licensed under this Act, the owners were asked to improve the supply. As a result, two came on to the Council's public supply and the other provided a well.

MILK CONTROL AND SUPERVISION.

Number of cowsheds and dairies on	regi	$_{ m ster}$	 -99
Number of wholesalers on register	•••		 12
Number of retailers on register			 66

Inspections of cowsheds and dairies are carried out with the object of endeavouring to obtain clean and safe milk supplies. Clean milk depends upon a clean milking shed and clean methods; safe milk being obtained by healthy persons handling the milk, and cows free from disease.

Six cowsheds have been improved during the year, the floors, lighting and ventilation of the sheds, prior to improvement, being found unsatisfactory, and incapable of being kept reasonably clean. I may add that there is still much to be done to bring the cowsheds in the district up to the required structural standard.

Arrangements for the Veterinary Inspection of cows are made by the County Council.

Milk Sampling: No sampling of ordinary, or ungraded milk is carried out at present.

DESIGNATED MILKS: The sampling, and the granting of licences for the production and sale of Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised and Accredited milk is carried out by the County Council. The following table shows the number of samples taken during the year, and the results of examination:—

Tobaron or one and the control of	A	ccredited.	Tuberculin	Tested
Number of Producers at end of	year	8	3	
Number of samples taken		23	8	
Number of samples passed	•••	20	7	
Number of samples failed		3	1	

d.

DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE, etc: The open portions of the Snettisham sewer and the River Wensum at East Rudham received their annual cleansing. Numerous inspections of new drains, and of alterations to existing drains, were carried out. No outstanding improvements to the drainage or sewerage of any parish has been carried out during the year.

As a result of my actions taken under the Public Health Act, a number of houses without closets were provided with them, and a number of pail closets were converted to water closets. Similarly existing drainage systems were improved when this was found desirable, and additional cesspool accommodation provided when necessary.

TENTS, VANS AND CAMPING SITES: There are in the District 16 sites licensed for movable dwellings. These are inspected from time to time to see that the byelaws and other sanitary requirements are complied with. At one holiday camp the closet accommodation was found to be unsatisfactory, and at my suggestion a number of water trough closets, and a form of purification system for the effluent, was installed in place of the existing pail closets.

Had not the War intervened, I believe that the spending of holidays in caravans and converted buses, etc., would have been on the increase in this District.

PUBLIC CLEANSING, ETC. The parishes of Heacham, Docking, Burnham Market and Burnham Overy have schemes for the collection of household refuse, collection of nightsoil, and the emptying of cesspools. In Ringstead, household refuse and nightsoil is collected.

The estimated cost of the schemes and the product of a penny rate in these parishes is as follows:—

Parish.	Estimated annual cost of Scheme.	Product of 1d. rate.	Rate levied for purpose of scheme.
Heacham	£600	£35	1/5d.
Docking	£350	£12	2/5d.
Burnham Market	£350	£13	2/5d.
Burnham Overy	• £150	£5 10s.	$2^{\prime}/3$ d.
Ringstead	£140	£4	2/11d.

These schemes appear to be working quite satisfactorily, and from a public Health viewpoint justify the expenditure incurred. None of the other parishes in the District have any organised arrangements in force for dealing with cesspool emptying and nightsoil collection.

COLLECTION OF INDESTRUCTIBLE REFUSE: All parishes in the District, with the exception of the above, have their indestructible refuse collected regularly by the two men and one lorry employed for the purpose.

When the scheme was first inaugurated, I understand that it was the opinion of the Council that the larger parishes, especially those near the coast having an influx of summer visitors, should receive more frequent collections than the smaller inland parishes. The rota of collections has, therefore, continued to be drafted out accordingly, and the present frequency of collections is as follows:—

Every 2 weeks. Every 4 weeks. Every 6 weeks. Every 8 weeks. N. & S. Creake. Sedgeford. Dersingham. Anmer. E. & W. Rudham Shernbourne. Snettisham. Stanhoe and Titchwell. (Brancaster (Town), Barwick. (Staithe), Bircham and Choseley. Bagthorpe. Syderstone and Burnham Thorpe. Barmer. Burnham Norton. Holme and Old Hunstanton. Thornham.

Owing to the fact that the scheme is not for the collection of household refuse, many of the provisions of the Public Health Act, such as the provision of proper refuse bins, etc., cannot be applied to it. However, the amount of refuse now being collected is considerable, and from all appearances the scheme is appreciated by the general public.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES: 21 inquiries were made in connection with infectious diseases. After cases of highly infectious complaints such as scarlet fever, diphtheria and tuberculosis, rooms occupied by infected persons are fumigated, either after the patient has been removed to hospital, or recovered from the disease. 21 rooms were fumigated during the year, and where it was considered necessary, a quantity of disinfectant was supplied to the householder.

VERMINOUS AND DIRTY PREMISES: Two verminous premises and 1 dirty house were dealt with during the year.

SHELLFISH: Numerous inquiries and inspections were made during the year, and samples taken, with a view to improving the supply of shellfish from Brancaster Staithe. The results of analyses proved that mussels, before going through the cleansing tanks, were anything from 40% to 100% clean; and after being in the tank for an average of 46 hours, varied from 80% to 100% clean.

It thus appears that the tanks, if used by fishermen, do provide some beneficial cleansing effect; and it is possible that if tanks which could be flushed out daily by the tide were provided, and these tanks used conscientiously by the fishermen, little or no complaint would then be received from the Authorities to whose districts these mussels are consigned.

WATER SUPPLY: Samples taken during the year from the public supply were found upon examination, to be quite satisfactory in every way.

A new tube well was sunk at Syderstone in place of the old lower parish well, which gave an unsatisfactory supply.

Samples of private well water are taken when required, and if a supply is unfit the appropriate action is taken to ensure a wholesome supply.

A survey was made of those parts of the district, not provided with a piped supply, for sources of water that could be used for fire fighting. Although the report of this survey was not actually completed, I understand that it helped to furnish the Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade with some useful information.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS: 5 defects in the form of inadequate or unsatisfactory sanitary accommodation, want of cleanliness, etc., were discovered, and these were remedied by informal action being taken.

STORAGE OF PETROLEUM:

Number	\mathbf{of}	new lice	nces i	ssued d	uring y	ear	•••	6
Number	\mathbf{of}	licensed	petrol	stores		•••	•••	61
Number	\mathbf{of}	licensed	carbic	de store	s			9

GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME:

For some time after reception into this area was completed, much of my normal work had to be curtailed so that I could, in the capacity of Chief Billeting Officer, assist the Evacuation Officer in dealing with the multifarious problems which arose.

Apart from the actual billeting problems, all claims for damage caused by evacuees had to be inspected and reported upon to the Ministry of Health.

If I may do so, I would like to make this the opportunity for stating, that had it not been for the excellent work of the local billeting officers, and other voluntary workers, the task of billeting the evacuated persons would not have been carried out so successfully as it was.

I am.

Your obedient servant.

W. B. JENKINS.

Sanitary Inspector.





